

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 IO-13 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 OES-07
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R 151416Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8324
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 3502

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: WEEKLY SAUDI EDITORIAL REVIEW

1. SUMMARY: CONTINUED CEREMONIES RELATED TO KING'S RETURN
DOMINATED ALL MEDIA PAST WEEK. PRINCIPAL THEMES FOCUSED ON
CARTER'S MOVE ON M.E., CARTER-ASSAD MEETING, ARAB BOYCOTT
AND LONDON SEVEN SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

2. CARTER'S MOVE AND PEACE EFFORTS.
ALL DAILIES GAVE PROMINENCE TO CARTER'S PEACEFUL EFFORTS,
DENIAL OF A 13-POINT PEACE PLAN SAYING CARTER TO DEFINE
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VIEWS FOLLOWING TALKS WITH PRINCE FAHD.
OKAZ (5/14) U.S. REALISTIC STANCE LIES IN PROPOSING A
SOLUTION TO MAIN ISSUE, THIS THEORETICALLY GOOD. U.S.
REJECTS TALKS WITH PLO WHICH IS CONTRADICTORY. CARTER
SHOULD SPELL OUT PRACTICAL FORMULA TO TALK TO PALESTINIANS AND
ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HOMELAND FOR THEM.
ON GIVING ISRAEL PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, ESPECIALLY

AS FAR AS PRODUCING SOPHISTICATED ARMS, ARAB NEWS (5/14) WRITES THERE CAN BE ON PEACE. THIS TREATMENT IS INOPPORTUNE TODAY AS ARAB TERRITORIES STILL OCCUPIED. WE WILL GIVE CARTER THE BENEFIT OF DOUBT. ARABS CAN THINK UP MANY EXCUSES FOR HIM. BUT IT IS TIME FOR HIM TO DO SOMETHING TANGIBLE TO KEEP THEIR FAITH.

ARAB NEWS (5/8) WRITES CARTER'S ELECTION GAVE RISE TO HOPES THAT A SOLUTION IS POSSIBLE. U.S. CAN IMPOSE A SETTLEMENT OR CHECK ANOTHER SLIDE TOWARD WAS. ARABS ARE NOT THINKING ABOUT WAS. THEY RELY ON THEIR ECONOMIC POWER AND CARTER ADMIN.'S GOOD INTENTIONS.

MADINA (5/10) PRAISED CARTER'S ADMIN. FOR CONTACTS WITH ARABS. NEW CONFIDENCE IN ARAB-U.S. RELATIONS IS COMING TO SURFACE - WILL PROMOTE BILATERAL UNDERSTANDING. INCREASING CONTACTS WILL PAY AND HELP WHITE HOUSE TO KNOW OUR VIEW POINT.

JAZIRAH (5/9) SAYS CURRENT CONTACTS MAKE ARABS UNDERSTAND NEW TRENDS IN U.S. POLICY, AND BUILD FRIENDSHIP WITH CARTER. URGE FOR PEACE DOES NOT MEAN SURRENDER TO U.S. DEMANDS OR CONCEPTS. CARTER MUST TAKE U.S. INTERESTS INTO ACCOUNT. THESE CONTACTS MIGHT LEAD TO DELAY GENEVA CONFERENCE UNTIL LATER THIS YEAR. ARABS HAVE MANY ACES TO PLAY.

ON U.S. STAND TOWARD M.E., CROWN PRINCE FAHD TOLD "AL-FAJR" WEEKLY OF ABU DHABI "WE ARE MAKING UTMOST EFFORTS TO CREATE SUITABLE CLIMATE FOR TALKS. WE HOPE U.S. HAS UNDERSTOOD OUR PROBLEMS. ARABS SEEK A REASONABLE SOLUTION". (JAZIRAH 5/11).

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3. CARTER-ASSAD MEETING

JAZIRAH (5/9). SYRIA WANTS BALANCE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND AMERICA. DEFENSIBLE BORDERS MEANS RIGHTS GO BACK TO OWNERS.

ALL PAPERS AGREE THAT U.S. WOULD MAKE EFFORTS FOR A JUST SOLUTION.

ATWAN (MADINA 5/9). FAILURE OF A SETTLEMENT MEANS TENSION AND INSTABILITY. THERE IS AN AMERICAN PLAN NOT DIFFERENT FROM CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON M.E. BUFFER ZONES AND ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS ACCEPTABLE. U.S. ZEAL FOR SETTLEMENT COOLED DOWN BECAUSE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT CONTAINED. ARABS GRAVE MISTAKE IS ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. ROLE.

IBRAHIM (RIYADH 5/9). WASHINGTON INTERESTED IN SYRIA'S ROLE IN ME. CARTER CAN POSE A SPOKESMAN OF U.S. INTERESTS, AND HE IS CAPABLE OF DOING SO WITH A FOURTH ARAB LEADER IN WASHINGTON AS HE GAINS MORE PUBLIC SUPPORT. NOW HE LISTENS TO VIEWS AND IN JUNE WILL GIVE RESULTS, HE WILL DECIDE WHETHER GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD TAKE PLACE OR NOT.

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ARAB NEWS (5/10). U.S. PEACE OFFENSIVE RESULTED IN
A REALITY THAT ARABS ARE READY TO SETTLE M.E. CONFLICT.
CARTER WILL NOT REST UNTIL ACHIEVING SET GOALS (M.E. SETTLE-
MENT). SAME PAPER (5/9) WRITES: TALKS WITH CARTER SHOULD
GIVE ASSAD A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT TO DO NEXT. COMMANDO
LEADERS BELIEVE ON SOLUTION DESPITE CARTER'S DETERMINATION
AND DESIRE FOR A JUST PEACE. SOME OF MODERATE STATES AND
SUPPORT STATES HAVE THE PALESTINIAN SENTIMENTS.
ON TALKS WITH ARAB LEADERS, ARAB NEWS (5/12) QUOTES
CARTER'S ENCOURAGEMENT BY MODERATE ATTITUDE OF ARAB
LEADERSHIP. ARABS ARE IN A POWERFUL ECONOMIC POSITION
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VERSUS THE REST OF THE WORLD, SO THERE SHOULD BE NO ETHICAL PROBLEMS WITH MR. CARTER MAKING UP HIS MIND ABOUT HIS NEXT COURSE OF ACTION.

4. ARAB BOYCOTT.

ATWAN (MADINA 5/10). U.S. ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION AIMS AT DESTROYING ARAB BOYCOTT AND OPENING ARAB MARKETS TO ISRAELI PRODUCTS. STRANGE THAT ARABS STAND SILENT WOTWARD SUCH MOVE. NO ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO SETTLE M.E. WHAT IS SORROWFUL IS THAT THIS LAW COMES WHEN ARABS FULLY COOPERATE WITH U.S. EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE JUST SOLUTION. IT IS A CHALLENGE TO ARABS STRUGGLE AND RIGHTS, AND WILL HAVE MORE EFFECTS ON U.S. AND ALLIES THAN ARABS. AMERICAN ECONOMY WILL SUFFER.

ABBASSI (MADINA 5/9). LEGISLATION WILL MAKE THINGS WORSE.

5. LONDON SUMMIT.

ARAB NEWS (5/8) WRITES IT WILL HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON WORLD ECONOMY, AND LEAD TO NEW APPROACH TO THIRD WORLD DEMANDS FOR A NEW ORDER. IT INDICATES COUNTRIES CONCERNED TO BUY A NUMBER OF ECONOMIC HATCHETS. IF THESE COUNTRIES LOSE CONFIDENCE IN ONE ANOTHER, DISASTER SEEMS INEVITABLE. OIL PRODUCERS ARE INVOLVED. BY RESTRAINING OIL PRICE INCREASE SAUDI ARABIA HELPS WEST FIND A WASY OUT OF ECONOMIC DILEMMA. IF A COORDINATED ECONOMIC POLICY EMERGES IT SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A COMMITMENT TO WORK SERIOUSLY FOR A M.E. PEACE. SAME PAPER (5/9) WRITES WEST WANTS TO PREVENT PRICES OF CERTAIN GOODS FROM GOING THE WAY OF OIL. ABBASSI (MADINA 5/8). CONFERENCE WILL GREATLY AFFECT DEVELOPING NATIONS UNLESS THEIR INTERESTS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY SEVEN. ALL QUESTIONS ARE OF CONCERN TO DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IBRAHIM (RIYADH 5/10). PREVIOUS OPTIMISM CAME TO NOTHING. NO COMMON POLICY ON ENERGY OR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY MATERIALIZED. CONFERENCE NOT AN END ONLY A STEP TOWARD ECONOMIC UNITY IN EUROPE UNDER U.S. PATRONSHIP. UNCLASSIFIED

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ATWAN (MADINA 5/8). QUESTIONS ON ITS AGENDA NOT EASY TO SOLVE. U.S. WARNED AGAINST TOO MUCH OPTIMISM. TWO-DAY MEETING NOT ENOUGH TO SETTLE THEM. EUROPE CHANGED U.S. TRYING TO IMPOSE ITS WILL ON THEM. ALL CONFEREES AGREED ON ONE POINT: HOW TO END DEPENDENCE ON ARAB OIL AND KEEP OIL OUT OF NORTHASOUTH DIALOGUE.

6. SAUDI INFORMATION DELEGATION ENDS VISIT.

JAZIRAH (5/10) QUOTED, DR. FARISI, MEMBER OF SAUDI INFORMATION DELEGATION TO U. S. SAYING IT WAS A SUCCESSFUL TOUR DURING WHICH DELEGATION VISITED TWENTY CITIES IN TEN

STATES. RESPONSE TO OUR ATTEMPTS TO CORRECT INFORMATION
ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA WAS 99 PERCENT INTERVIEWED PERSONS. HE
HAILED AMERICAN PEOPLE ADVOCATING RIGHT AND JUSTICE. EIGHT
MEMBER DELEGATION SELECTED BY CROWN PRINCE FAHD SPENT TWO
MONTHS IN STATES.
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